

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00331 241313Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 /090 W  
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R 240835Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2428  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS PALERMO 0331

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: SICILIAN ASSEMBLY ELECTS NEW REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

REF: PALERMO 292

1. SUMMARY. ON MARCH 21, THE SICILIAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTED A CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT WITH COMMUNIST PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT. THE NEW GIUNTA, WHICH INCLUDES A COUPLE OF VERY CAPABLE DEMOCRATS, CANNOT DO WITHOUT THE COMMUNISTS, AND VICE VERSA. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PROJECTED IN REFTEL AND AFTER THREE MONTHS OF CONTINUED CRISIS, ON MARCH 21 THE SICILIAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTED A NEW DC-PSI-PRI-PSDI GIUNTA WHICH - FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SICILY - ALSO RECEIVED THE VOTING SUPPORT OF THE PCI. THE LIBERALS, WHO HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE REGION ON FEBRUARY 9, WITHHELD THEIR SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLI NATIONAL GUIDELINES.

3. SOME NEW FACES ARE THE SURFACE FEATURE OF THE TWELVE MEMBER GIUNTA. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE SOCIALISTS APPOINTED TWO FRESHMEN EACH. MOREOVER, THE DC CALLED BACK TO GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY TWO OF ITS TOP POLITICIANS -- FORMER REGIONAL PRESIDENT MARIO FASINO AND MARIO D'ACQUISTO, AN EXPERIENCED, FORMER

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REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR -- WHO ARE EXPECTED TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF PRESIDENT SANTI MATTARELLA VIS-A-VIS THE COMMUNISTS. PENDING AT THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY IS APPROVAL OF A BILL RESTRUCTURING THE PREROGATIVES OF THE ASSESSORATES AND GRANTING MORE POWER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGION. PRESIDENT MATTARELLA WILL ASSIGN THE NEW ASSESSORSHIPS ONLY AFTER PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

4. THE PCI SHOWED "TOLERANCE" IN ACCEPTING THE ELECTION AND REELECTION OF TWO "TAINTED" GIUNTA MEMEBRS, ONE OF WHOM (DC) HAS BEEN ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN IRREGULAR CAPITAL EXPORT, THE OTHER A REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE PAST GIUNTA WHOSE REMOVAL THE PCI HAD PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED. THIS IS AN INDICATION OF HOW FAR THE PCI IS WILLING TO GO WITH THE DC WHEN QUESTIONS OF COSMETICS ARE CONCERNED. BARRY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:**  
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